



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
P. O. Box 199  
Mbabane, Swaziland

31 December 1985  
MMB-5015

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--December 1985

I. GENERAL

1. Cable of Thanks --The bureau received a cable of thanks from the Embassy in Pretoria for "your outstanding labors and responsiveness to embassy and Washington needs. We are on a daily basis impressed with your prompt and professional processing of the plethora of topical press and broadcast materials from and about South Africa. Your attentiveness to our special requests is also very much appreciated," the cable said.

2. New Staff Slot --The Ambassador and the Director FBIS have approved another staff editor slot for the bureau to enable it to extend operating hours to Saturday and Sunday evenings. Permission is awaited from the Swazi Interior Ministry for this and an additional teletypist slot.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. On 3 December, SAPA reported that South African President P. W. Botha had lifted the state of emergency in eight districts. BBC expressed thanks for the report: "Twenty three minutes only separate your receipt time and the time of our supply of world service which used it as a monitoring exclusive. An outstanding piece of work from news bureau's viewpoint."

2. The bureau has made a number of changes in response to consumer feedback gathered and forwarded by LRB and DRD. First, it began adding short headlines to separate items in its well-received press review. Second, it began filing more economic material from all sources but particularly from the press, which carries a considerable amount of such material. Third, it began filing the weekly "Apartheid Barometer" column from the WEEKLY MAIL, the successor of the now defunct RAND DAILY MAIL. Fourth, it has marginally increased coverage of specific political topics, particularly on the school boycotts, although for months a very low threshold on political reporting has been maintained. The bureau was able to give a quick response to one analyst question of considerable interest: whether South Africa would extend its debt repayment freeze.

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Only a few days after the feedback was received, SAPA carried an embargoed announcement that the freeze had been extended until 31 March. The item was filed immediate.

3. Two explosions killing and wounding innocent people caused an outcry in South Africa--and a possible military response. On the 16th, Johannesburg Radio reported that six people had been killed in landmine explosions near Messina, for which the ANC subsequently claimed credit. South Africa protested vehemently to Zimbabwean officials, but despite veiled threats, did not carry out any raid into that country. On the 20th, however, SAPA reported that nine South Africans, believed to be political refugees and ANC members, had been killed in an attack which the Lesotho Government charged was carried out by South African commandoes. Although South African authorities refused to admit responsibility, the RSA State Security Council met that evening and issued a warning that despite repeated warnings to neighboring governments, including Swaziland, ANC elements were continuing to operate from their territories and the South African Government considered the attitude of these countries to be "unsatisfactory." It pledged to protect its borders and people "by all appropriate means." Three days later a bomb exploded in a white shopping center near Durban, killing five Christmas shoppers and injuring many. The ANC declined to make any statement accepting or denying responsibility for the attack but South African officials and observers feel it was the beginning of ANC attacks against "soft targets."

4. On the 22nd, police forced Mrs. Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, out of her Soweto home after Law and Order Minister Le Grange announced that her banning order had been modified, that she would not have to return to the small Orange Free State town to which she had been banished, but that she could not live in the Johannesburg area. Mrs. Mandela defied the ban and returned to her home, and was promptly arrested. However, SAPA reported on the 23rd that she had been released without bail and had flown to Cape Town to visit her husband for the holidays. Afterwards, however, she vowed to return to again defy the government ban on her living in Johannesburg.

5. The bureau's Portuguese section was more heavily worked than it has been in recent months when major gatherings were held by both Angola and Mozambique. On the 3rd, Angolan President Dos Santos read a party report opening the MPLA-Labor Party Second Congress which was four and a half hours long and was carried in installments on Luanda Radio. The bureau, which maintained an open watch on the radio throughout, excerpted the speech in ten takes, processed two other Dos Santos speeches connected with the occasion, and also texted many of the messages brought by other delegations, including some from a number of prominent Communist countries as well as from African countries and organizations. Extremely poor reception hampered much of the work and prevented processing of a fair amount of material, although the Angolans made things worse by reading the translation while the speeches were going on so that the original and translation were so intermixed that processing was impossible. On the 13th, Mozambique began holding the 14th session of the People's Assembly, which President Samora Machel opened in a 90-minute speech which the bureau excerpted in four takes.

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## III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

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1. Afrikaans monitor [ ] was promoted to FBN 9/3 and Portuguese monitor [ ] was promoted to FBN 8/1, both effective 8 December.

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2. Unit chiefs for the two monitorial sections were named during the month. [ ] was named chief of the Afrikaans/African Languages section and [ ] was appointed to head the Portuguese section.

B. Buildings and Grounds

At the remote site, construction of an Emergency Generator Annex has been completed. The generator has been installed, but automatic operation has been delayed because of a faulty control panel. Repairs are expected to be complete by mid-January.

## IV. VISITS

To The Bureau:

A Headquarters safety inspector visited the bureau during the month to test safety aspects of the asbestos ceilings which are in portions of the bureau and the residences.

## V. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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The bureau's admin assistant, [ ], and the bureau chief crewed on the only women's raft to be entered in the annual Greater Usutu raft race held in Big Bend, Swaziland during the month. The women's team finished ninth overall in the 12-kilometer race involving some 20 rafts, and would have finished even sooner had the experienced men's teams been gentlemanly enough to warn them which side of the rapids to avoid so as not to get hung up on the rocks. Local rumor had it that four dogs had been lost to crocodiles in the river the previous week, but no crocs were sighted, though much in mind, as part of the race involved pushing the rafts over shallow sand banks.

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[ ]  
Chief, Swaziland Bureau

## SWAZILAND BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 418,100  
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 9,870  
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 1,085

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	5,605	8,040	95
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)	159,270	166,390	9,2440

## ANGOLA

Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese	29,890		
Luanda ANGOP in English		540	
Luanda ANGOP in French		1,220	
Luanda ANGOP in Spanish			

## BOTSWANA

Gaborone Domestic Service in English	1,250		
Gaborone BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS in English			

## CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe	520		
(Clandestine) Radio Truth in Ndebele to Zimbabwe			
(Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola		1,630	
(Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern & Central Africa			
(Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern & Central Africa			
(Clandestine) KUP in French to Southern & Central Africa		990	
(Clandestine) Voice of Truth in Portuguese to Angola			

## LESOTHO

Maseru Domestic Service in English	3,250		
Maseru Domestic Service in seSotho			

BROAD CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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## LESOTHO

Maseru THE NATION in  
English  
Maseru THE COMMET in  
English and  
Maseru MOCHOCHONOCHO in  
Sesotho

## MADAGASCAR

Antananarivo Domestic Service in  
French

## MALAWI

Blantyre Domestic Service in 250  
English  
Blantyre DAILY TIMES in  
English  
Blantyre MALAWI NEWS in  
English

## MAURITIUS

Port Louis Domestic Service in  
English  
Port Louis Domestic Service in  
French

## MOCAMBIQUE

Maputo Domestic Service in 18,830  
Portuguese  
Maputo in 1,090  
English to Southern Africa  
Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in  
Portuguese  
Maputo NOTICIAS in  
Portuguese  
Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese

## NAMIBIA

Windhoek Domestic Service in  
Afrikaans  
Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in  
Afrikaans  
Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in  
English  
Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in  
English  
Windhoek DIE SUIDWESTER in  
Afrikaans

BROAD-  
CASTSPRESS  
AGENCIESPUBLI-  
CATIONS

## SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans	490		
Johannesburg Domestic Service in English	29,730		
Johannesburg International Service in English	3,930		
Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans	8,270		
Johannesburg Television Service in English	15,410		
Umtata Capital Radio in English	18,230		
Johannesburg SAPA in English		162,010	
Durban ILANGA in Zulu			
Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans			
Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English			
Johannesburg O'SECULO in Portuguese			
Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans			
Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English			690
Johannesburg SOWETAN in English			
Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English			1,510
Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English			600
Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English			630
Johannesburg THE STAR in English			2,160
Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English			2,830
Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans			
RSA Press Review			79,680
SWAZILAND			
Mbabane Domestic Service in English	690		
Mbabane Domestic Service in Siswati	390		
Mbabane Television Service in English	570		
Mbabane Television Service in Siswati			
Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS in English			
Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English			270
Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English			460

BRF -	PRESS	PUBLI-
CASIS	AGENCIES	CATIONS

## UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in English	11,450	
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## USSR

Moscow in Ndebele to Zimbabwe		
Moscow in Zulu to Southern Africa	3,480	

## ZAMBIA

Lusaka Domestic Service in English	1,030	
Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English	830	
Lusaka Voice of Freedom in English to Southern Africa	1,240	
Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English		490
Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English		
Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English		

## ZIMBABWE

Harare Domestic Service in English	8,450	
Harare Domestic Service in Ndebele		
Harare Voice of Namibia in English		1,260
Harare THE HERALD in English		
Harare THE SUNDAY MAIL in English		1,860
Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English		